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# Factors Affecting Marital Disruption Amongst Nigerian Immigrants in North America (NINA): A Pilot Study

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# FACTORS AFFECTING MARITAL DISRUPTION AMONGST NIGERIAN IMMIGRANTS IN NORTH AMERICA (NINA): A PILOT STUDY

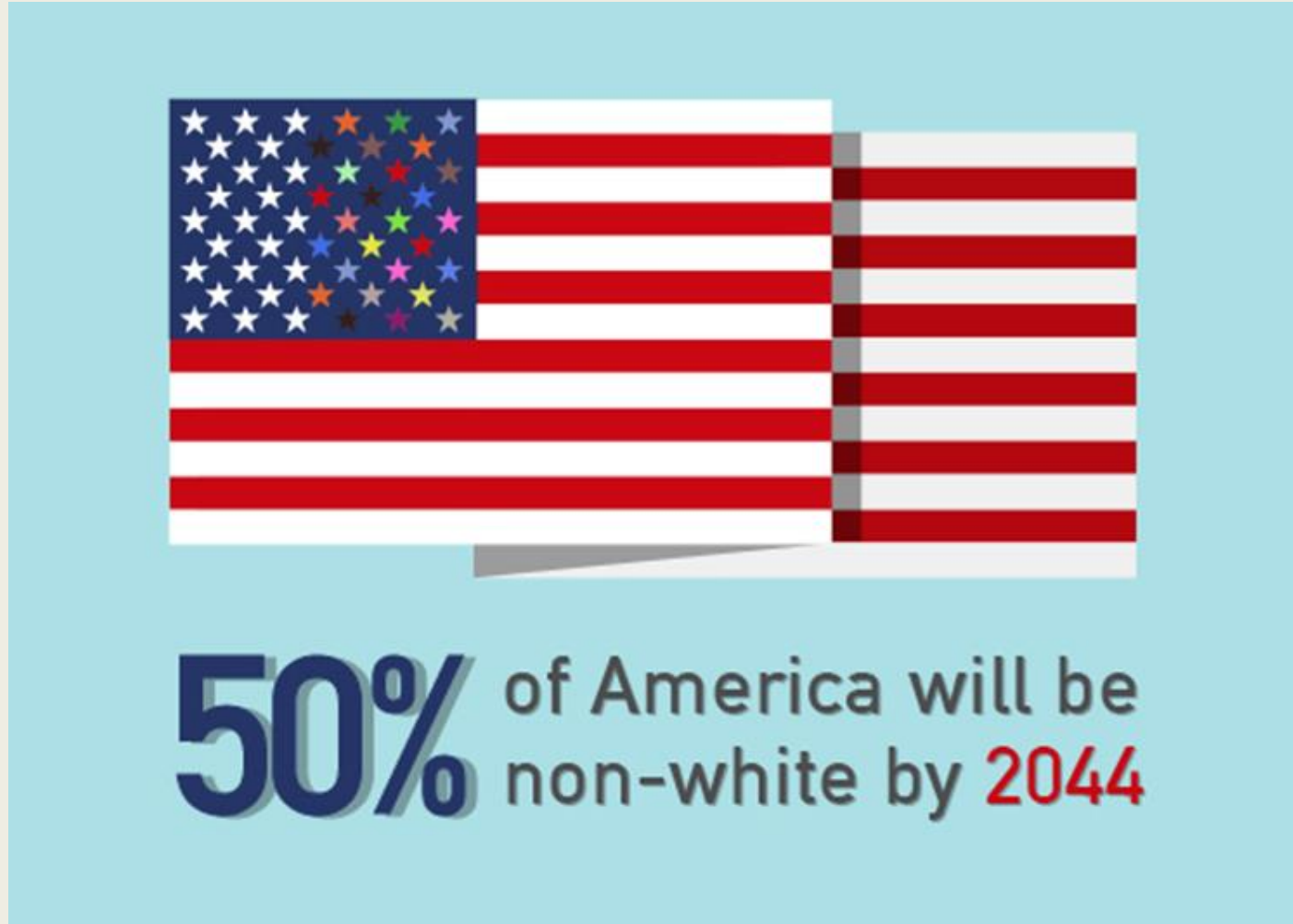
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# Welcome to 2044!



# Background

- The black African immigrants population more than doubled in the U.S, from 574,000 to 1.6 million, between 2000 and 2016.
- The census data also indicated that 35% of African Immigrants originated from West Africa of which over a third (38.7%) are from Nigeria
- The largest African Immigrant populations are found in California, New York, Texas, Maryland and Virginia. (Anderson and Lopez 2018)



# Background Continued

- Conflicts have increased among Nigerian immigrants as they become adjusted to living in the U. S.
- There are clashes of the traditional family structures and American culture.
- External issues have led to arguments, violence, and other disruptions (Akinsulure-Smith, Chu, Keatley & Rasmussen, 2013).



# Initial study goal

- To ascertain the level of marital satisfaction amongst NINA in a faith based community
- Faith based because of easy access and openness to respond to marital issues.



# Description of Study/Methodology

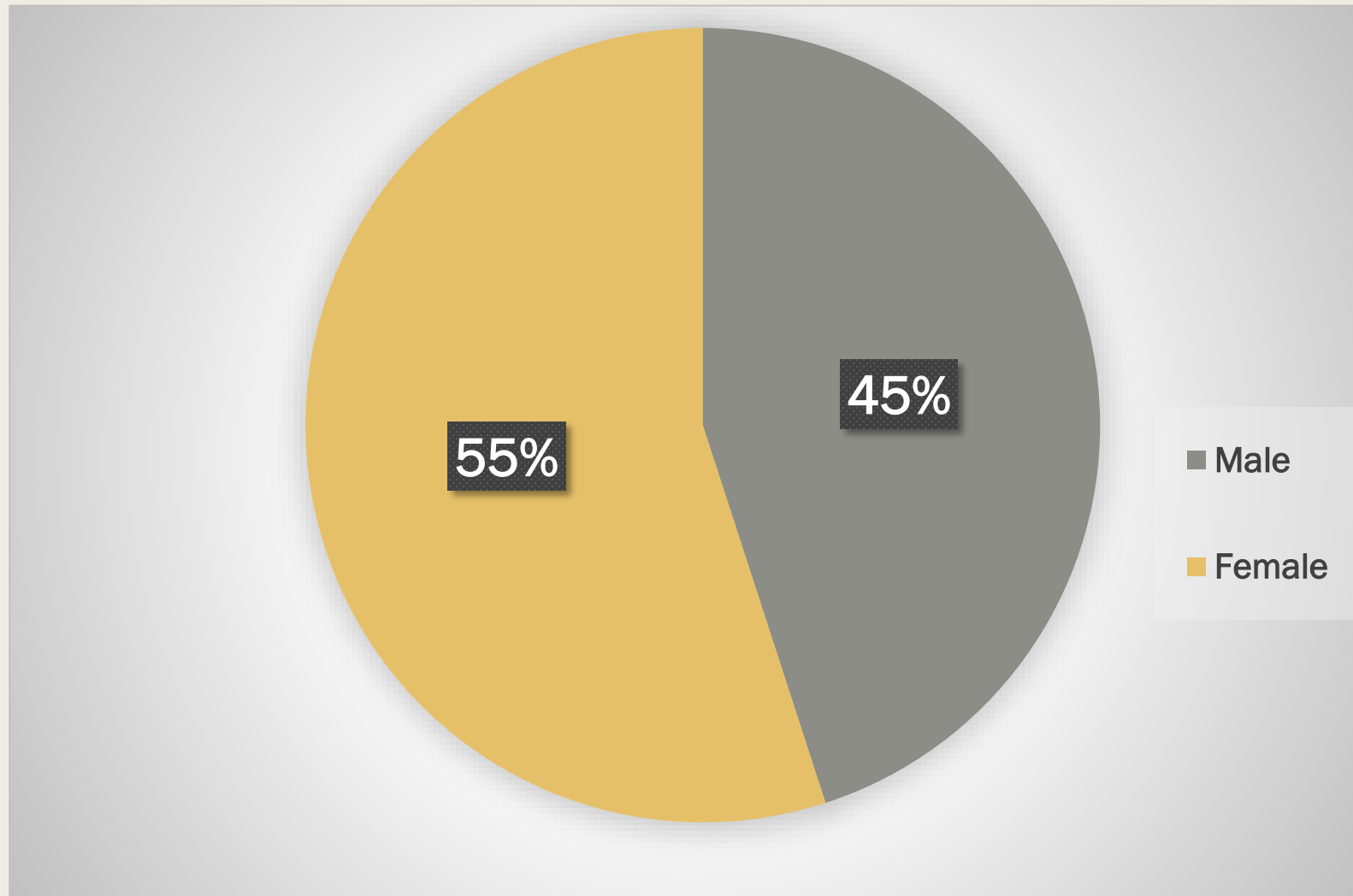
- IRB approval for the study received from Chicago State University, Chicago, Illinois.
- Approval received from the Nigerian Adventist in North America (NANA) group.
- Standardized survey tool to measure index of marital satisfaction was used (WALMYR Assessment Scales, 1977).
- Survey distributed during the annual NANA camp meeting.
- Implied consent attached to the survey tool.
- Data analyzed for descriptive and correlation with main variables by SPSS v.25 (2017).

# Survey Tool and Scoring

- Questionnaire measures the degree of satisfaction with the present marriage
- 25 questions in Likert scale format – ‘none of the time’ to ‘all of the time’
- Questions touched on items like affection, trust, fear, fun, confidence, common interests, finances, future, excitement, arguments, and disagreements.
- Each question has a score of 1-7 with negative questions reversed scored.
- Scores below 30 indicate no clinically significant problem.
- Scores above 30 indicate clinically significant problems.
- Scores above 70 indicates severe distress in the marriage relationship.



# Description of Study participants



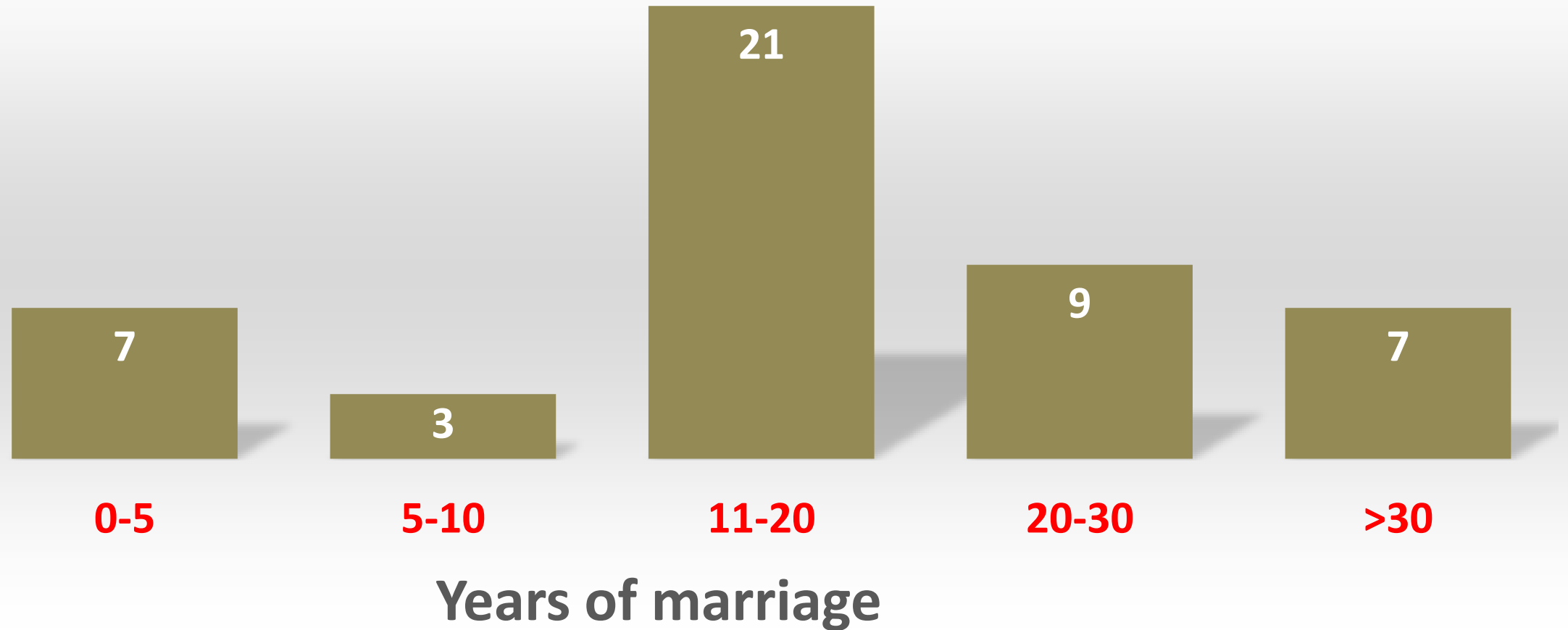
# Description of participants

- 77% were married and are living with their spouses
- 78% were married in Nigerian before immigration.
- Primary reasons for immigration are employment (43%) and education (33%)
- All participants were members of the Seventh Day Adventist Church.

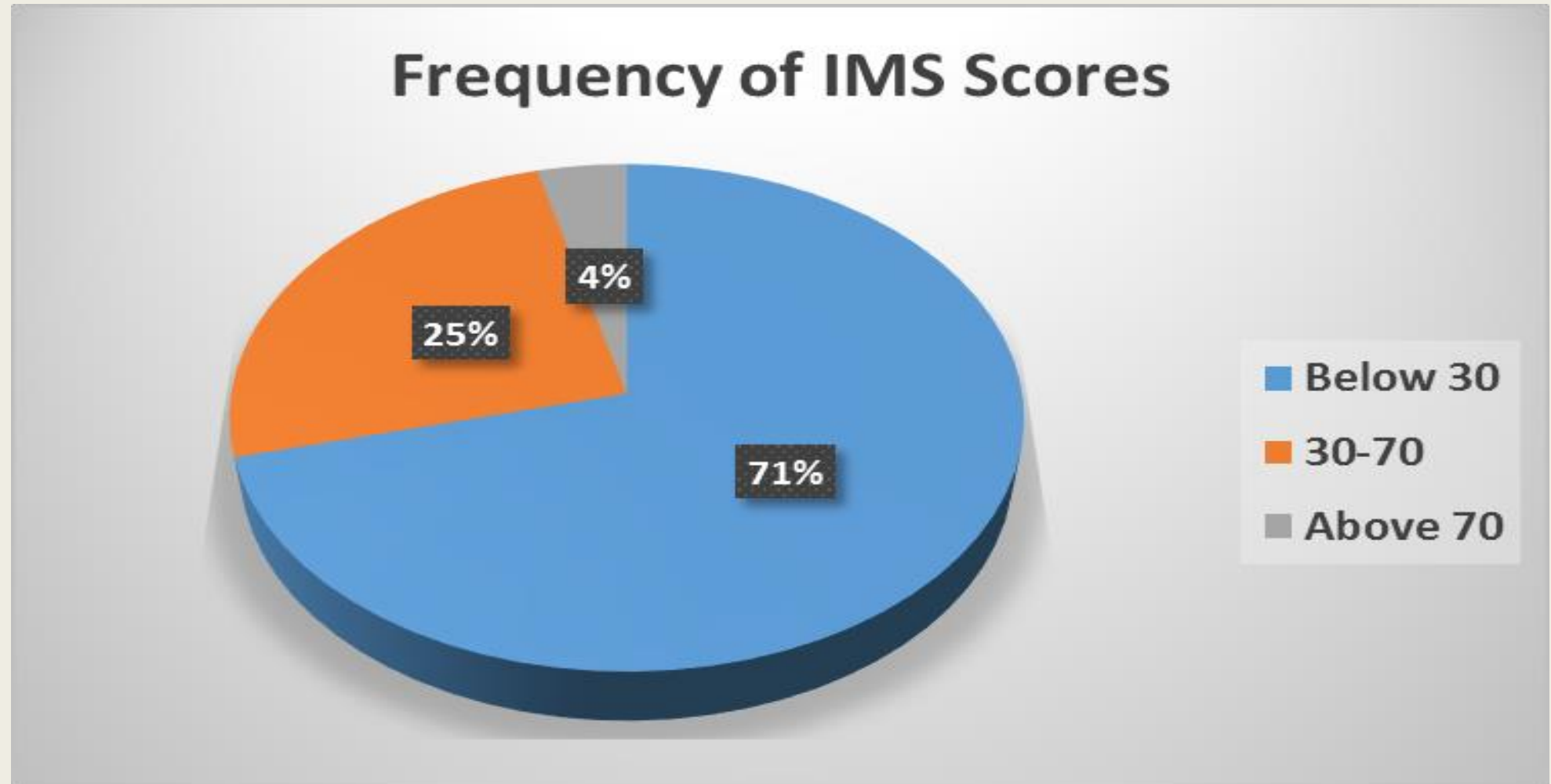
## **Inclusion criteria:**

- Must be living in the USA
- Must be a Nigerian married to a Nigerian

# Description of participants



# Results



# Results

- Overall, majority of respondents (71%) have no clinically significant problem with their marriage relationships
- 29% had clinically significant problems
- Only 4% were experiencing severe distress in their relationship at the time of the study.



# Results - correlations

	IMS Scores	P value
Gender	-0.013	0.933
Reasons for immigration	-0.238	0.111
Age	-0.12	0.423
Who immigrated first	0.096	0.524
Where was the marriage contracted	0.031	0.839
N	49	

No significant finding

# Follow up Study

- Focus on factors causing marital disruption using culturally sensitive indicators.
- Wider audience
- Mixed method approach



# Goal of follow up study

The goal of this study was to examine factors that affect Marital disruptions among Nigerian Immigrants living in North America (NINA).

- Pilot study
- Focus on the United States of America.



# Methodology

- Pilot – starting with the USA.
- Cross-sectional, mixed method approach.
- Culturally sensitive questionnaire designed by authors.
- Snowball sampling via e-mail invitation.
- Online questionnaire completed using survey monkey.
- Personal interview conducted with seven volunteers.
- Quantitative data analyzed using the SPSS (version 25).
- Qualitative data analyzed using ATLAS.ti

# Questionnaire Items

*Please rate your opinion regarding the following factors as causing marital disruptions among Nigerian immigrants living in North America.*

- Male verse female role issues in America compared to Nigeria
- Disparities between Nigerian culture expectations and American life style
- Women embracing American women's liberation ideas
- American Citizenship/Residency status issues
- Inability to find employment in the field of qualification
- Financial instability
- Long separation between spouse immigrating to America
- Financial pressure from Nigeria requiring sending money to family members in Nigeria
- In-law issue
- Domestic violence (physical and/or emotional torture)
- Keeping unresolved marital conflicts secret because "you don't wash your dirty linen outside" -suffering in silence
- Healthy respect between husband and wife
- Infidelity
- Job pressure (working too much or not at all)
- A non-religious environment
- Buying into the American Dream (Status symbols and other social affluence indicators)
- Lack of personal spirituality

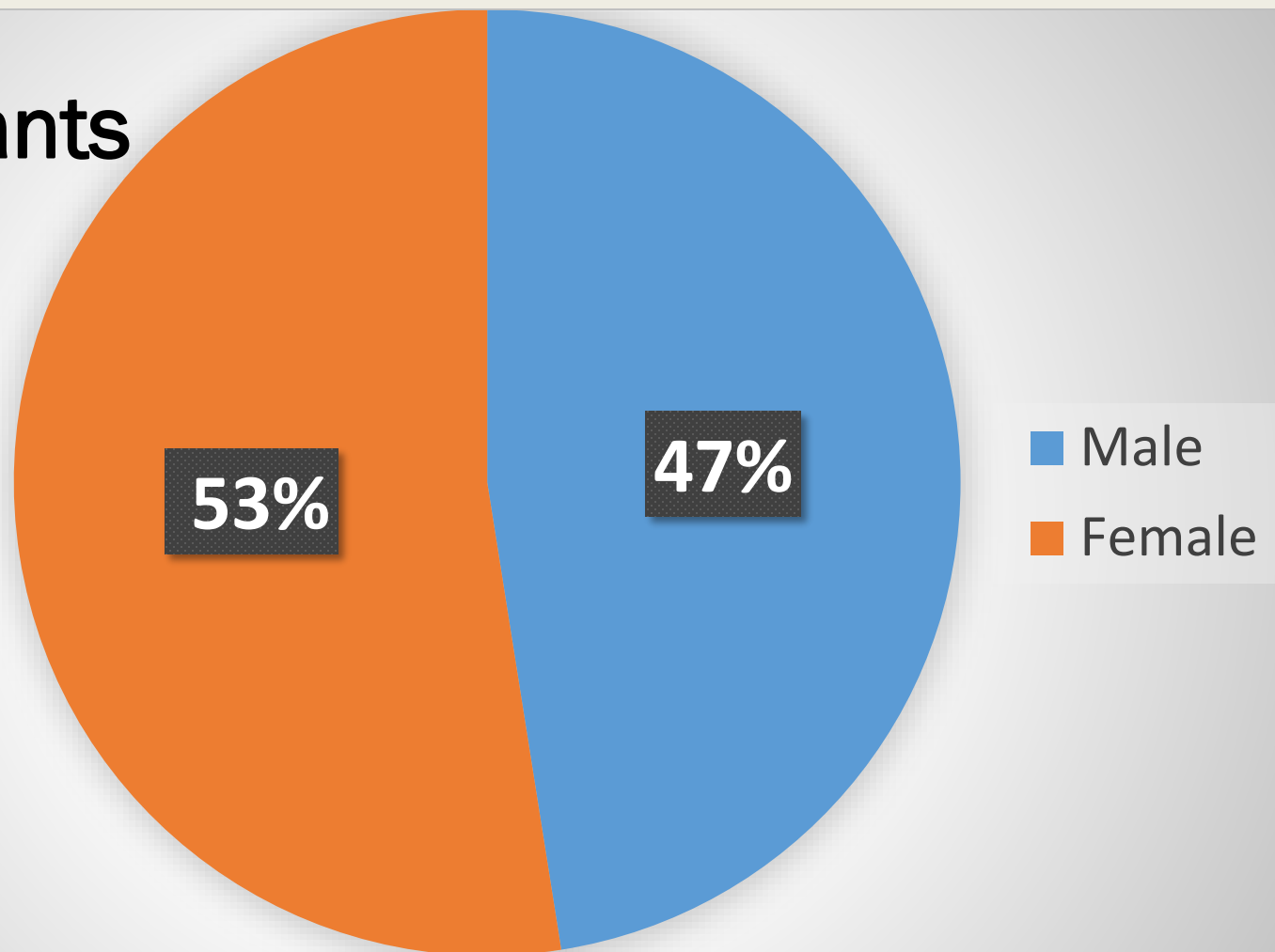
# Initial Scoring and Factor Analysis

## Scoring

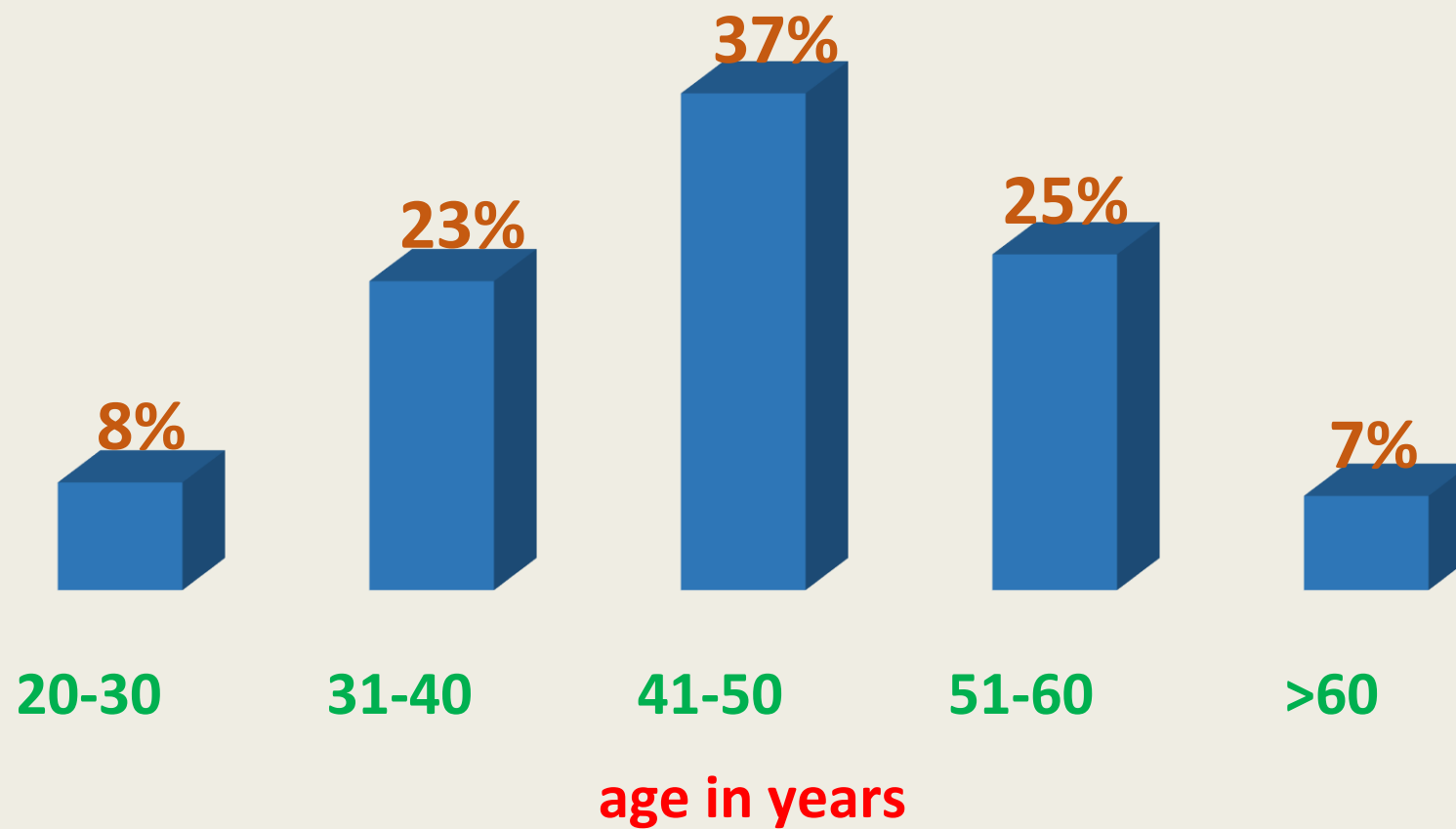
- Treated as individual item Likert scale score
  - *Strongly agree (4 points) to Strongly disagree (0 point)*
- Factor analysis
  - *Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis*
  - *Rotation Method: Promax with Kaiser Normalization*
  - *Factor loadings  $<.3$  were suppressed.*

# Results – Quantitative only

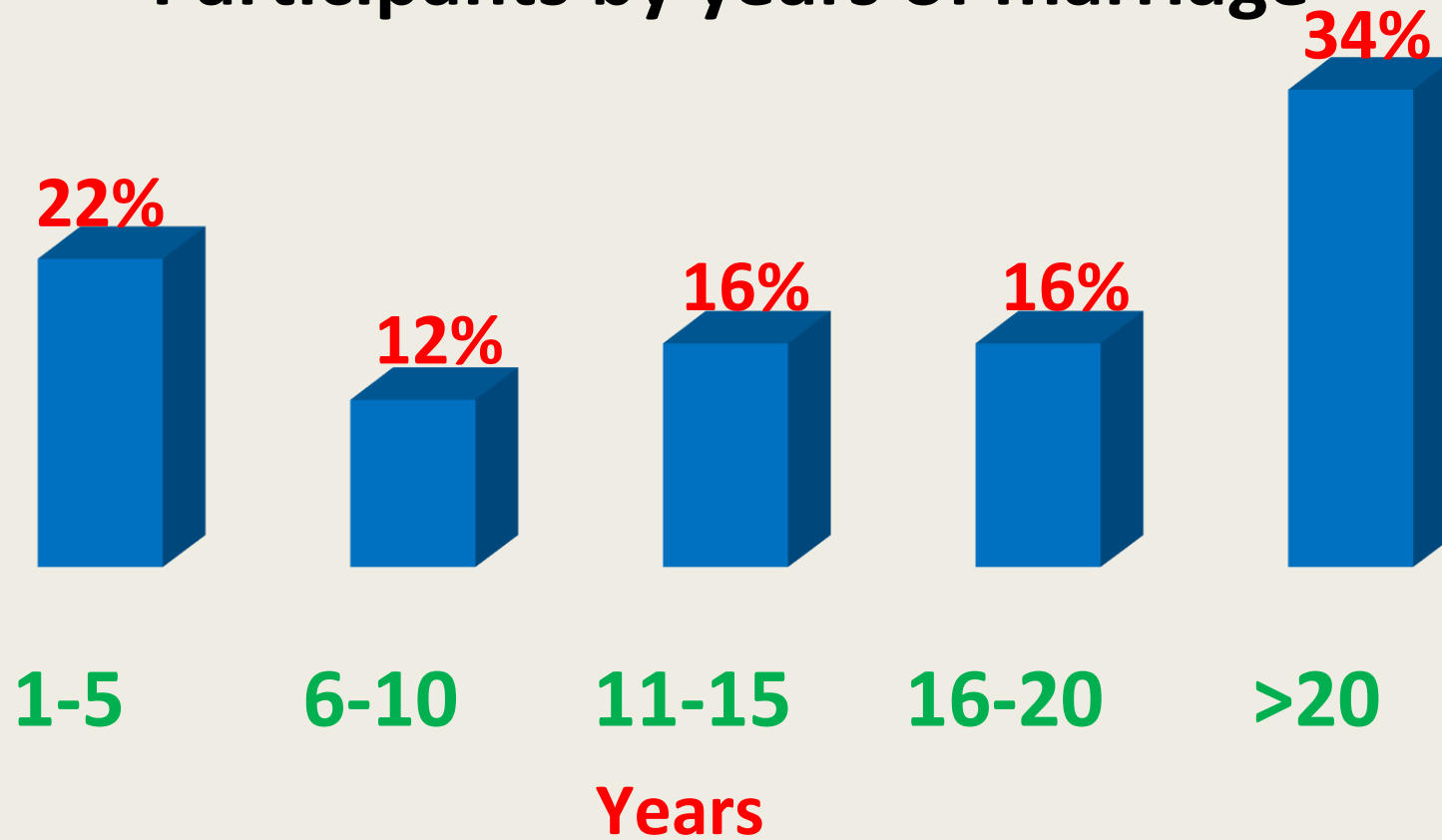
Participants



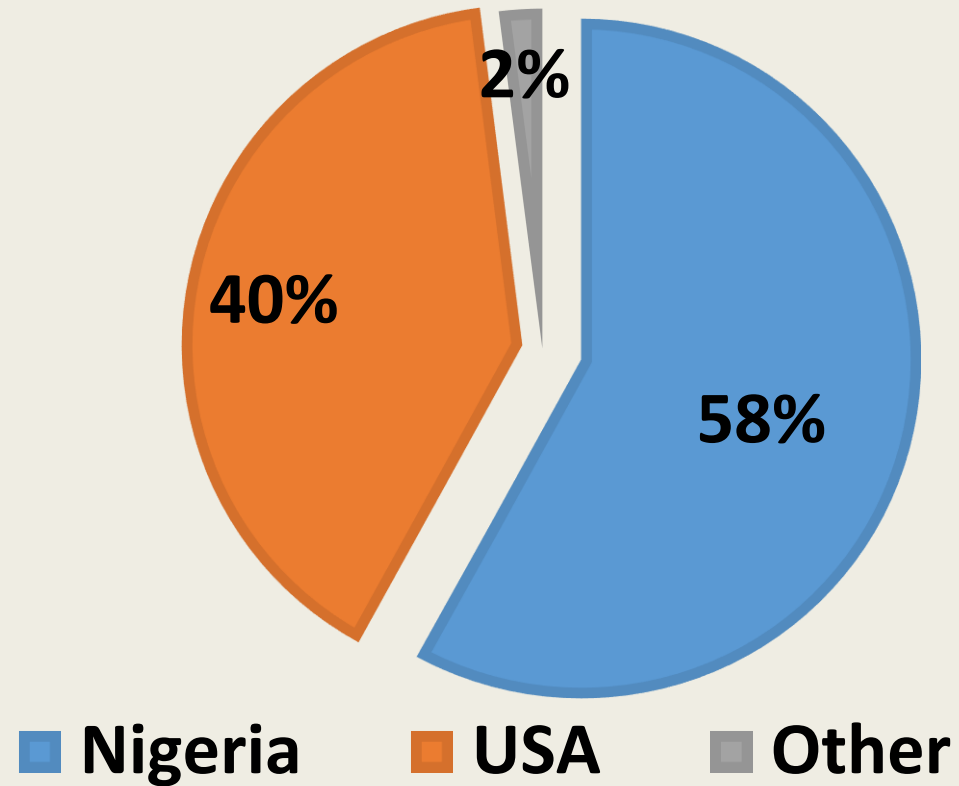
## Participants by Age Group



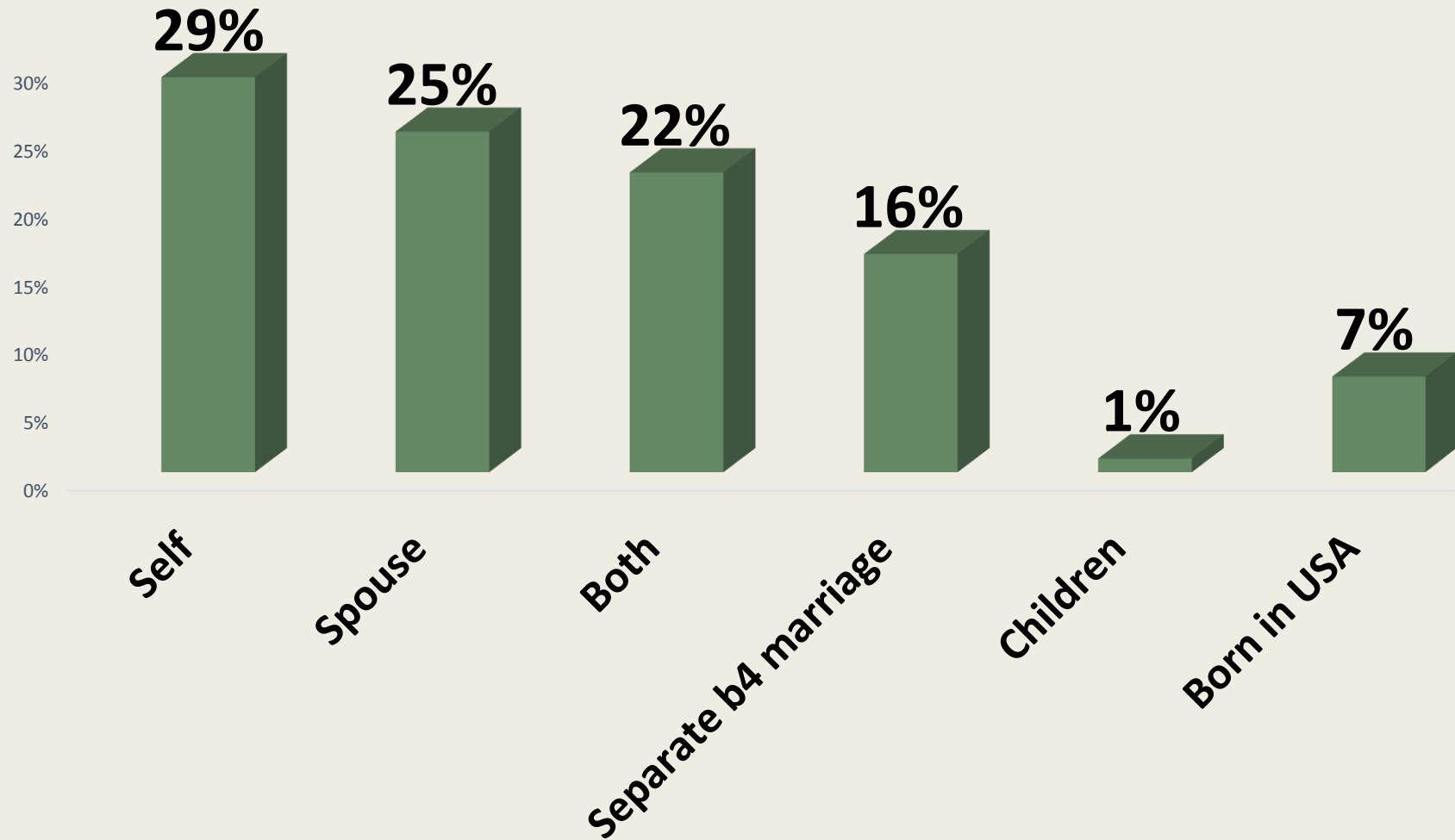
## Participants by years of marriage



## WHERE MARRIAGE WAS CONTRACTED

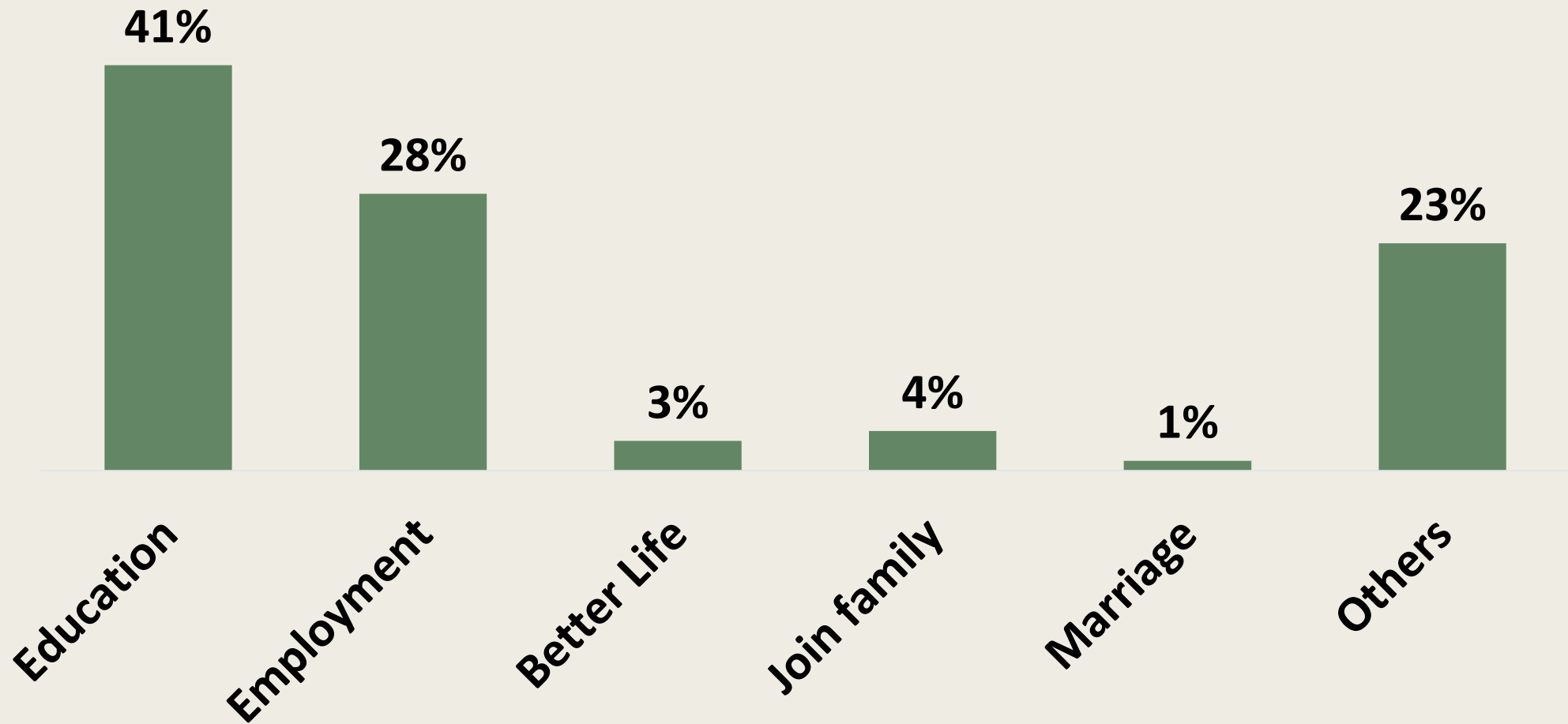


# Who immigrated first

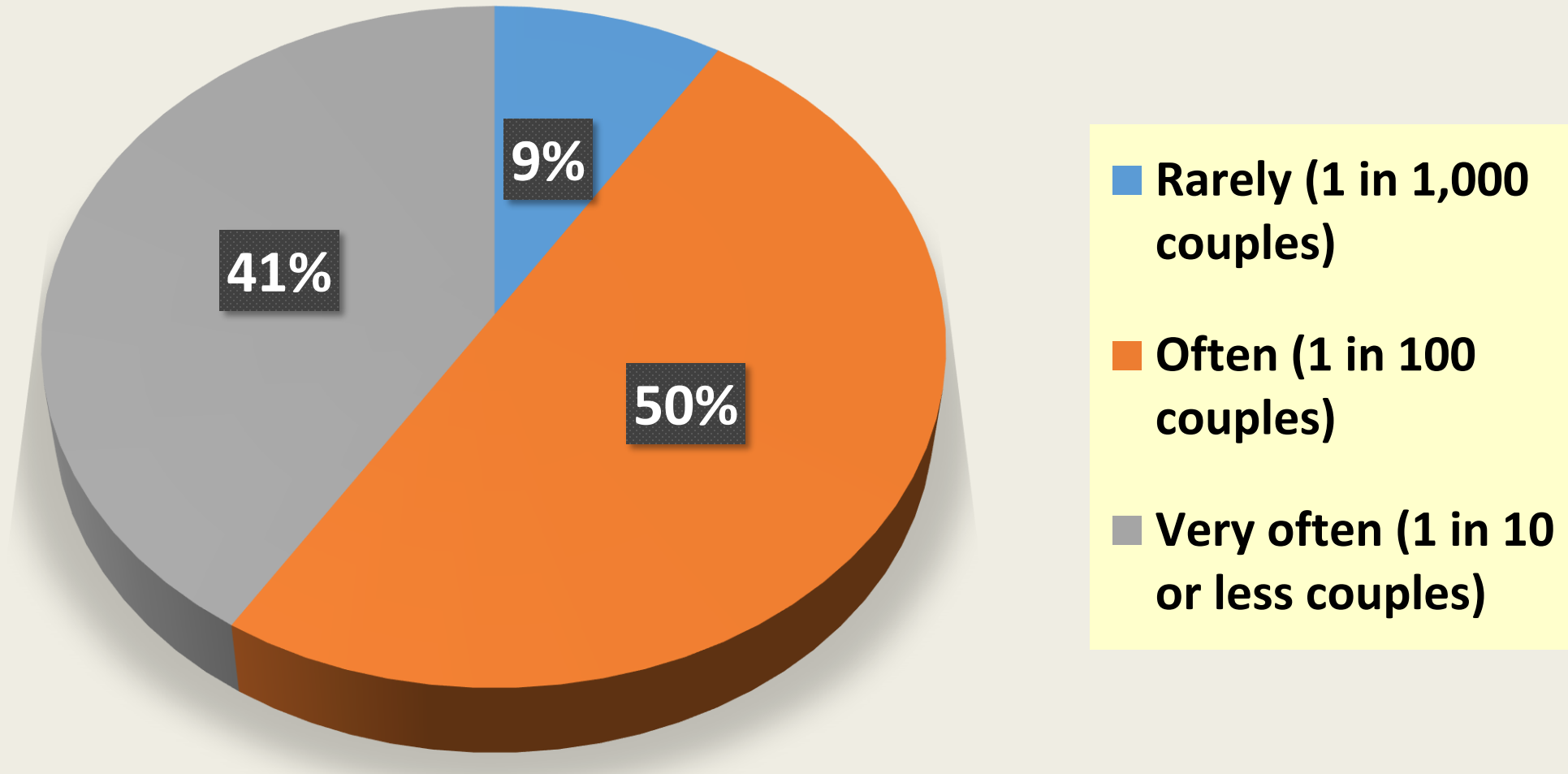




# Immigration Reasons



# Participants estimates of marital disruption among Nigerians living in the US



# Median scores by demographics of participants

Characteristics	<i>n</i>	Mdn	Range	Statistics	<i>p</i>
<b>Gender</b>					
Male	79	50.00	56.00	$U=4876.50$	.216
Female	79	51.00	67.00		
<b>Age group</b>					
20 - 30	13	43.00	65.00	$H=3.153$ df=4	.533
31 - 40	36	50.00	67.00		
41 – 50	58	51.50	64.00		
51 - 60	40	50.50	56.00		
Above 60	12	53.00	38.00		

U: Mann-Whitney Test; H: Kruskal-Wallis Test

# Median scores by demographics of participants

Demographics	<i>n</i>	Mdn	Range	Statistics	<i>p</i>
<b>Years of marriage</b>					
1 - 5	31	50.00	67.00	$H = 1.435$	.838
6 - 10	19	50.00	48.00	$df = 4$	
11 - 15	24	51.00	63.00		
16 - 20	23	51.00	56.00		
Over 20	52	51.00	52.00		
<b>Marriage Contracted</b>					
Nigeria	93	51.00	67.00	$H=4.234$	.120
USA	62	48.00	65.00	$df=2$	
Other	4	52.50	26.00		

U: Mann-Whitney Test; H: Kruskal-Wallis Test

# Items scoring >3

Items	Mean score	SD
Male verse female role issues in America compared to Nigeria	3.54	0.638
Disparities between Nigerian culture expectations and American life style	3.48	0.691
Financial instability	3.45	0.598
Job pressure (working too much or not at all)	3.33	0.692
Keeping unresolved marital conflicts secret because “you don’t wash your dirty linen outside” -suffering in silence	3.26	0.882
Women embracing American women’s liberation ideas	3.23	0.888
Infidelity	3.17	0.842
Long separation between spouse immigrating to America	3.11	0.866
Inability to find employment in the field of qualification	3.06	0.855
In-law issue	3.06	0.864
Lack of personal spirituality	3.03	0.996
Buying into the American Dream (Status symbols and other social affluence indicators)	3.02	0.953

# Characteristics of constructs identified

Construct	Number of items	Mean	SD	Cronbach's $\alpha$
Financial Stressors	5	2.98	0.26	.72
Relationship Deficiencies	6	2.99	0.12	.74
Intercultural Conflicts	3	3.39	0.20	.67
Spiritual Systems	3	2.89	0.24	.72
Outliers	5	3.00	0.21	.54
<b>All Items</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3.04</b>	<b>0.25</b>	<b>.79</b>

*Items in construct with factor loadings*

Inability to find employment in the field of qualification .872

American Citizenship/Residency status issues .772

Financial instability .502

Financial Demands From Nigeria .480

Long Spousal Separation  
Prior to Migration .419





*Items in construct with factor loadings*

Domestic violence (physical and/or emotional torture) .812

Keeping unresolved marital conflicts secret (no dirty linens...) .646

Infidelity .608

In-Law Issues .484



**MARITAL RELATIONSHIP  
DEFICIENCIES**



*Items in construct with factor loadings*

Disparities between Nigerian culture expectations and American life style .885

Male verse female role issues in America compared to Nigeria .787

Women embracing American women's liberation ideas .682



**INTERCULTURAL  
CONFLICTS**



*Items in construct with factor loadings*

A non-religious environment .818

Lack of personal spirituality .784

Buying into the American Dream,  
materialism .567





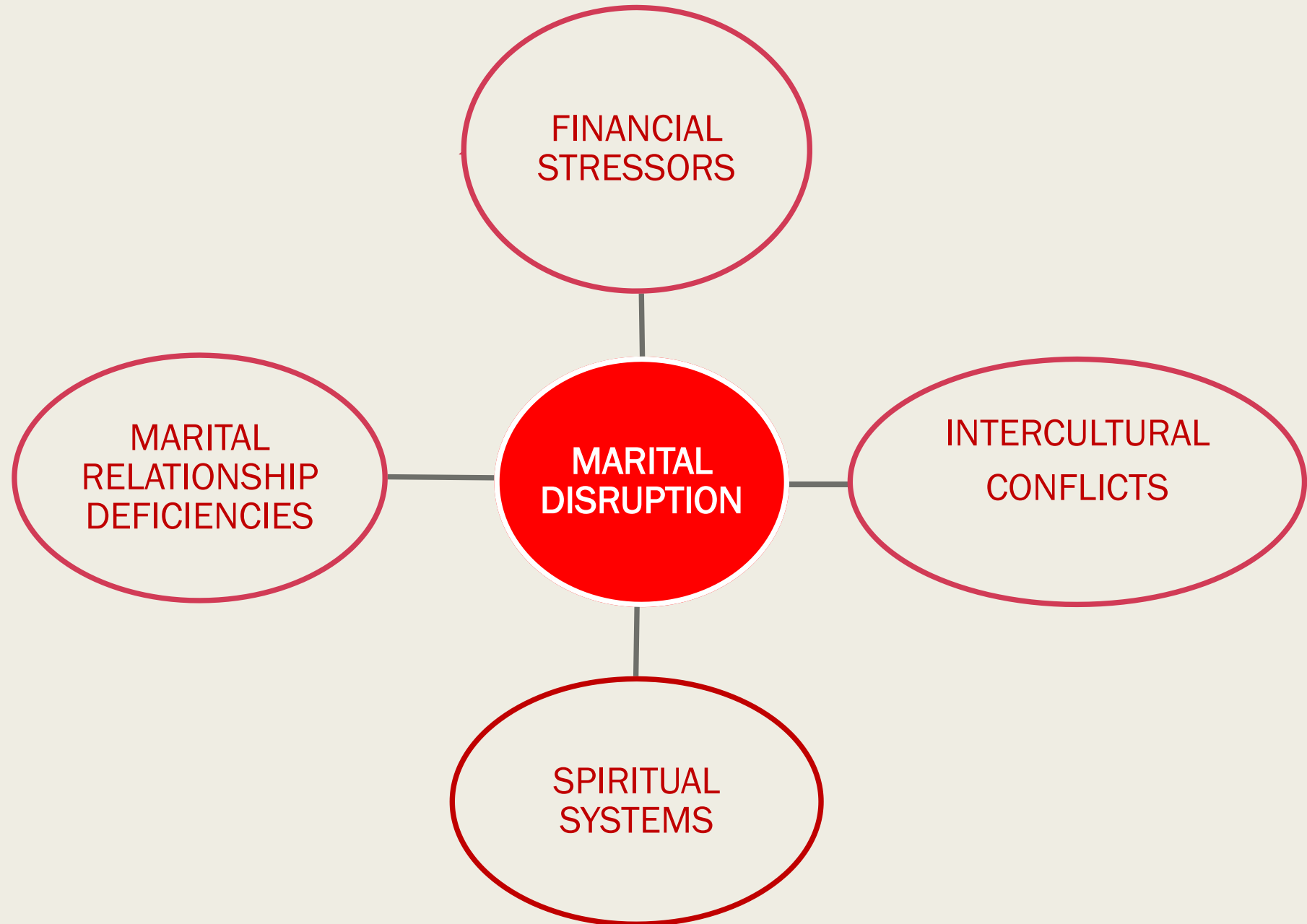
*Items in construct with factor loadings*

Healthy respect between husband and wife .692

Job pressure (working too much or not at all).537



**OUTLIERS**  
by Adobe



# Probable Cultural Explanations

- Patriarchal Beliefs
  - *financial stressors*
  - *intercultural conflicts*
- Traditional Gender role expectations
  - *intercultural conflicts*
  - *marital relationship deficiencies*
- Extended Family Influences
  - *Outlier factors*
  - *financial stressors*
- Spiritual Beliefs
  - *Spiritual Systems*



# Limitations and future studies

- Moved from piloting IMS to culturally sensitive tool.
- This is a measure of perceptions of factors causing marital disruption and not a measure of marital satisfaction
- Will continue to perfect the tool for wider use and to measure satisfaction.
- Present study is limited to the USA with limited number of participants – limited generalizability.
- Future studies will include more participants and other countries in North America.

# Action!







- **Nigerian Immigrant Family Orientation**
- **Supportive & Empowering Nigerian Communities**
- **Social Services professionals and religious leaders gaining a working understanding of the peculiarities Nigerian Family dynamics.**
- **Culturally Relevant Immigration and Legal Services**



# Selected References

- Anderson, M. & Lopez, (2018). Key facts about black immigrants in the U.S. *Pew Research Center*. Retrieved from <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/01/24/key-facts-about-black-immigrants-in-the-u-s/>
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## Questions

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